

REMARKS

Claims 10-13 and 15-22 are pending in the application. Claims 10-13 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,298,319 (Heile et al.) in view of US patent 6,106,662 (Hoskins et al.).

Independent claim 10 is canceled herein and is replaced by new independent claim 23. Claims 11, 12, 13, 15-19, and 22 are amended herein including the necessary change in dependency from claim 10 to 23. No new matter has been added. Claims 11-13 and 15-23 are presented for examination. References to Applicants' specification herein are relative to the substitute specification.

Description of the claim amendments

Independent claim 10 is replaced with new claim 23, which is similar to claim 10 and is clarified in scope. This amendment is supported by parts of the specification and drawings noted in the arguments below. Independent claims 18 and 19 are similarly amended.

MPEP 2106 (c): *"An applicant can always amend a claim during prosecution to better reflect the intended scope of the claim."*

Response to rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

In the office communication on page 5, par. 2, Examiner cites Heile col. 18, lines 35-65 and FIG 13 as teaching saving of references on the programming device, wherein the references indicate which project design blocks are to be copied from the library to the programming device. However the cited lines of Heile do not teach a reference on a programming device indicating which design blocks are to be copied. The cited lines only describe a request by a user for a given design block.

On page 5, par. 5, Examiner equates Heile's global central workspace with Applicants' programming devices 13-15. However, Applicants' programming devices 13-15 are local devices (par. 18 line 7), so this aspect of the rejection is unclear.

Heile's cited FIG 13 does not teach that a given design block is included in multiple part-projects and that a given design block is transferred to multiple programming devices for concurrent use (Applicants' FIG 1). In fact, Heile's method of FIG 13 specifically prevents this, by teaching that a user cannot check-out a file if it is locked for another user.

Heile does not teach that two part-projects on respective local programming devices are functionally linked for operational data transfer therebetween as now claimed per Applicants' par. 16, lines 25-30.

Regarding claims 13 and 17, Examiner cites Heile's assignment file 462, which contains parameter value assignments, such as turbo=on. This file does not correspond to Applicants' project design block, but is a global file listing current global parameter values. Examiner cites Heile's step 516 (FIG 13) as corresponding to Applicants' required responses from all programming devices before a project design block on any programming device is updated from the central library. However step 516 controls updating a file in the central library from a programming device, not updating a file on a programming device from the central library. Furthermore, it does not require a response from any other user. Steps 516-520 either allow or blocks updating of a file in the central library depending on whether the user submitting the check-in update has locked the file or not.

Regarding claim 22, Examiner cites Heile's method of FIG 14, but this method never prompts all users for acceptance of an update. Instead, whether to update a user's local file or not is determined automatically in Heile. Thus, a user may be updated unexpectedly without consent, or a user may not be updated, causing loss of version synchronization among the users.

Conclusion

M.P.E.P. 2143.03 provides that to establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.

As argued above, the proposed combination lacks features claimed in the independent claims and others herein. Thus the proposed combination does not support the obviousness rejections of the claimed invention. Applicants feel this application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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